

Fax Transmission

For : U.S. Department of Justice
National Security Division
Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit
F: 202-514-2836

From: Saylor Company
F: 626-765-9533

COPY OF MATERIALS DISSEMINATED ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

This fax transmission contains materials disseminated to members of U.S. media by Mark Saylor Company, LLC (FARA Registration No. 5827) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Abkhazia on September 1, 2009.

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 9:56 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Government of Abkhazia responds to Saakashvili remarks
Importance: High

Attached is a statement from the Government of Abkhazia. Please consider this in your coverage of the region.

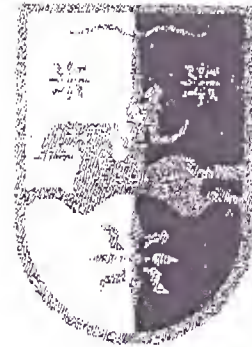
Best regards,

Cathy

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of Abkhazia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice..

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September 1, 2009



Statement by the Republic of Abkhazia

The following is a statement by Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia, in response to remarks made by President Mikheil Saakashvili during a recent visit to Ganmukhur.

"When Georgian President Saakashvili accuses others of thwarting normal life in this region, as he did Sunday, he needs to look in a mirror. He is the one who has used his Western-trained and equipped military to threaten our people with violence and terrorism, forcing us to bolster our borders with Russian help. He is the one who has illegally seized ships whose only crime was attempting to bring household goods and construction materials to our ports. He is the one who has imposed a political and economic embargo against us, a diplomatic 'Berlin Wall,' to persuade foreigners not to visit Abkhazia's beautiful beaches and to prevent our citizens from visiting other countries for medical care or schooling.

"President Saakashvili also said Sunday that Georgia is an enlightened place where people can choose their own way of life. The world must question the moral authority he has to make such a claim. The President's emotional rhetoric is filled with falsehoods and irrational hostility. His supporters in the West should think carefully before adding more fuel to his fire."

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SAYLOR COMPANY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL

August 31, 2009

The Honorable Jeanne Sheehan
The Honorable Jim DeMint
European Affairs Subcommittee
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

Please find attached a letter from His Excellency Sergei Shamba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Abkhazia, which I send to you on his behalf.

If you wish, I remain available to you or your staffs to answer what questions I can or to pass along to the Minister any thoughts you may have.

Best regards,

Steve Ellis
Principal
202-715-1448
steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

cc:

The Honorable Chris Dodd
The Honorable Bob Menendez
The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.
The Honorable Jim Webb
The Honorable Ted Kaufman
The Honorable Jim Risch
The Honorable Bob Corker
The Honorable Roger Wicker

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
The Honorable Phillip Gordon

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26 August 2009

The Honorable Jeanne Sheehan
The Honorable Jim DeMint
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
European Affairs Subcommittee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225
USA

Dear Chairwoman Sheehan and Ranking Member DeMint:

I write to you both with great respect.

I and others in my Government have read the transcripts from the hearing your Subcommittee held recently on the effects on this region of the August 2008 war. We thank you for your interest. It is good to know that you both, along with other Members of the Subcommittee, maintain strategic and tactical diligence in what happens in the Caucasus area. Abkhazia shares your concerns for peace and stability in the region, and while we may approach that goal differently from the Subcommittee, it is our hope that we can create and sustain a constructive dialogue that will ultimately benefit all parties involved.

Senators, much of the testimony from the U.S. Department of State officials causes us in Abkhazia consternation. Some of the premises they employed are wrong and based on only one perspective. We know, of course, that the U. S. Government considers Georgia an ally. That is a policy issue on which I would welcome engagement at a different time. However, I currently seek to offer a solution to something Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon said in his testimony.

Assistant Secretary Gordon, in response to a question from Senator Wicker, said the U.S. Government has limited access to gauging life on the ground in Abkhazia because "we're not there." While that may be true at this time, it is not because of any actions we have taken to keep Americans away.

In fact, American journalists often report from Abkhazia. We continue to welcome these and other journalists to visit our country and report freely and openly what they see and learn.

We extend that welcome to you and urge you to come and see for yourself what we are doing to build a future for our people. You can meet the officials in charge of setting up our electoral systems and the NGOS providing humanitarian assistance to refugees. You

can hear face-to-face from our citizens, who hold a variety of views about the progress we have made towards building our democracy.

My Government would be honored to organize a fact-finding trip to Abkhazia for any Member of your Subcommittee—and/or their staffs—as well as for Assistant Secretary Gordon or anyone on his staff. Indeed, we acknowledge the geopolitical complexities such a visit would entail. But we also recognize—and we hope that you do—that having the Subcommittee and others in the U. S. Government understand all sides of these issues could eliminate some of the misperceptions surrounding this situation.

For example, it seems that U.S. policy on Abkhazia (and South Ossetia) is based on the premise that our citizens will someday want to again be part of Georgia. Speaking for Abkhazia, I can tell you that is simply not factual. We would like American policymakers to hear this from our citizens directly, so you can understand why building a foreign policy on that incorrect premise is unrealistic. You may or may not accept what we have to say, but at least, you will hear our position from us and not solely from Georgia and its supporters.

We sincerely hope you will consider our invitation. If it is not possible to organize a fact-finding trip, we hope we can explore alternative solutions for you and your Subcommittee to learn more about Abkhazia and about the dreams and aspirations of our people. For instance, we are holding elections on 12 December; that may be an appropriate and interesting date for a visit.

We look forward to your response in the near future.

Respectfully,

Sergei Shamba
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Abkhazia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shamba', written in a cursive style.